



U.S. House clears a largely bipartisan package of bills to counter China

By D. TANG / E. CHEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House this week approved a sweeping package of bills to counter China's influence, shoring up a largely bipartisan push to ensure America comes out ahead in the competition between the world's superpowers.

The efforts would ban Chinese-made drones, limit China-linked biotech companies from access to the U.S. market, strengthen sanctions and deepen ties with Asian countries. The campaign to target Beijing this week shows how curbing China's power has emerged as a rare issue of political consensus.

But some measures did pass along party lines, with Republicans arguing the need to protect national security when it comes to everything from education to farmland, and Democrats raising concerns about discrimination.

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The Devil's River is seen on a ranch near Del Rio, Texas, Feb. 16, 2023. When a China-based developer decided to erect dozens of wind turbines in the area, each the size of the tallest skyscraper in San Antonio, across thousands of scrubby acres fed by one of America's cleanest waterways, local landowners made it their mission to stop the project.

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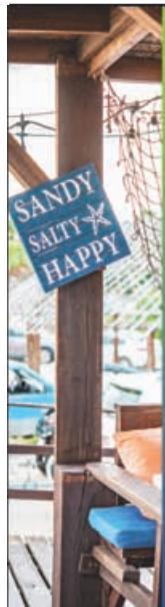
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U.S. House clears a largely bipartisan package of bills to counter China

Continued from Front

The advocacy group Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote also warned about "overly broad anti-China rhetoric."

One contentious measure seeks to revive a Trump-era program to root out Beijing's spying in American universities and institutes. The bills all still need Senate approval. "The House sent a powerful, bipartisan message to the Chinese Communist Party: the United States will not sit idly by," said Republican Rep. John Moolenaar, chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington has said the measures would damage bilateral relations and U.S. interests. "China deplores and firmly opposes this and has lodged serious representations to the U.S. side," spokesman Liu Pengyu said. Here's a look at key topics that the legislation focused on this week:

Technology

Tech dominated the measures, reflecting a "laser-focused" approach to limit the spread of Chinese technology in the U.S. and prevent Beijing from accessing American innovations, said Craig Singleton, senior China fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank.

The House backed a bill to prevent federal money from flowing to five biotech companies with Chinese ties, described as necessary to protect Americans' health data and reduce reliance on China for U.S. medical



In this photo from the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, British soldiers launch a drone during Project Convergence exercises at Fort Irwin, Calif., on Nov. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

supplies.

Another bill that cleared the House would outlaw, on national security grounds, devices from Chinese drone maker DJI, a dominant player in the global market. "Allowing artificially cheap DJI drones to monopolize our sky has decimated American drone manufacturing and given our greatest strategic adversary eyes in our sky," said Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y. To patch a loophole in export controls, the House backed an amendment that supporters say would cut off remote Chinese access — such as through cloud computing services — to advanced U.S. technology to develop artificial intelligence and modernize its military.

Spying at schools

A bill passed along party lines would direct the Justice Department to curb spying by Beijing on U.S. intellectual property and academic institutions and go after people engaged in theft of

trade secrets, hacking and economic espionage.

It's House Republicans' attempt to revive the China Initiative, a Trump-era program meant to curb China's spying in U.S. universities and research institutes. It ended in 2022 after multiple unsuccessful prosecutions of researchers and concerns that it had prompted racial and ethnic profiling.

The measure "brings back the shameful China Initiative, which is the new McCarthyism," said Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif. She criticized the program for assuming that "researchers and scholars in America should be investigated if they had a nexus with China, such as being born there or having relatives from there."

Rep. Lance Gooden, a Texas Republican and bill sponsor, called racism claims baseless.

Another controversial bill would restrict federal funding to universities with cul-

tural institutes funded by the Chinese government or programs linked to certain Chinese schools.

Rep. Michael Guest, R-Miss., called Beijing's influence inside American schools "one of our nation's most glaring vulnerabilities." Fellow Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, argued the measure could shut down legitimate academic programs, such as exchange students, study-abroad opportunities, guest lectures and sports events.

Farmland and electric cars Several Democratic lawmakers also raised bias concerns about a measure that flags as "reportable" land sales involving citizens from China, North Korea, Russia and Iran. The bill also would add the agriculture secretary to the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment, which reviews the national security implications of foreign transactions.

China "has been quietly purchasing American agri-

cultural land at an alarming rate, and this bill is a crucial step towards reversing that trend," said Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican from Washington state.

The National Agricultural Law Center estimates 24 states ban or limit foreigners without residency and foreign businesses or governments from owning private farmland. The interest emerged after a Chinese billionaire bought more than 130,000 acres near a U.S. Air Force base in Texas and another Chinese company sought to build a corn plant near an Air Force base in North Dakota.

The House also narrowly approved an effort to exclude Chinese electric cars from receiving clean-vehicle tax credits.

"America's working families should not be forced to subsidize a nation whose decades of unfair trade practices and government subsidies have led to lost jobs, shuttered factories and hollowed out communities right here at home," said Rep. Jason Smith, a Missouri Republican.

Rep. Dan Kildee, a Michigan Democrat, said the bill's "unclear restrictions" would make it unworkable and "leave the auto industry and batter manufacturers to pull back their U.S. investments."

Diplomacy

The House backed several measures to boost sanctions on China and deepen ties with Asia-Pacific countries to counter China's influence. One could lead Hong Kong's representative offices in the U.S. to close by stripping them of diplomatic privileges if the territory is deemed to have lost autonomy from mainland China. □

U.S. consumer watchdog moves to permanently ban Navient from federal student loan servicing

By WYATTE G.-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Consumer Finance Protection Bureau has filed a proposed order to permanently ban Navient from directly servicing federal student loans, which the agency says will put an end “years of abuse.”

Under terms of the Thursday order, which Navient agreed to without admitting any wrongdoing, the Virginia-based financial services company would also have to pay a \$20 million penalty and provide another \$100 million in relief to impacted borrowers.

“Today, we are closing the book on Navient,” CFPB Director Rohit Chopra said in prepared remarks Thursday, stating that the company harmed millions of borrowers as “one of the worst offenders in the student loan servicing industry.”

Chopra said the CFPB began investigating Navient, which split off from consumer banking corporation Sallie Mae in 2014, nearly a decade ago. The agency later sued Navient, accusing the company of predatory lending practices such as steering those struggling with their debts into higher-



The headquarters of student loan debt collector Navient Corporation is seen in Wilmington, Del., April 2, 2014.

cost repayment plans, or long-term forbearance, and failing to properly process payments.

In the years that followed, states also began to examine such allegations of forbearance steering leading to debt cancelations for many borrowers across the country. In 2022, for example, Navient agreed to settle claims with 39 state attorneys general for \$1.85 billion.

In a statement following the filing of the CFPB's Thurs-

day order, which should be finalized when entered by the court, Navient said the settlement agreement reached with the agency “puts these decade-old issues behind us.” “While we do not agree with the CFPB's allegations, this resolution is consistent with our go-forward activities and is an important positive milestone in our transformation of the company,” the company added.

Navient was once one of the largest student loan ser-

vice loans from the Federal Family Education Loan Program to another servicer, MOHELA, starting July 1.

Beyond the ban of servicing direct federal loans, the CFPB's order would also bar Navient from acquiring most of those FFEL loans, which are federally-backed private loans distributed through a program that ended in 2010. Borrowers may still have these kinds of loans if they attended school before then. At the time the CFPB filed its lawsuit against Navient back in 2017, the agency said that Navient was servicing student loans of more than 12 million borrowers, including more than 6 million accounts under its contract with the Education Department. In total, the CFPB added, Navient serviced over \$300 billion in federal and private student loans.

“Borrowers don't get to select who services their student loan, so more than a quarter of all student loan borrowers had no choice but to rely on Navient as their servicer,” Chopra said in his Thursday remarks — later adding that the proposed settlement “marks a significant step” for future protections. □

Associated Press

Next year's Jan. 6 election certification will get extra security to prevent another riot

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an effort to prevent another riot like the one on Jan. 6, 2021, the Homeland Security secretary has designated the congressional count and certification of the presidential election as a national special security event overseen by the Secret Service.

Both political parties' national conventions, the presidential inauguration and the U.N. General Assembly already have this designation, but it's the first time the Jan. 6 vote count and certification have received it.

The Secret Service said

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas made the designation following a request from the mayor of Washington, D.C. The move means these are particularly high-profile events that might be targets for terrorists or criminals.

The Secret Service is in charge of running security for such events in a planning process that kicks off many months in advance. A steering committee for the Jan. 6 certification has been formed and will begin meeting in the coming weeks, the Secret Service said.

The goal is to improve planning and coordination, es-

pecially when it comes to pulling in resources across the federal government.

“National Special Security Events are events of the highest national significance,” Eric Ranaghan, the special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service's Dignitary Protective Division, said in a statement. The agency and its partners “are committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated security plan to ensure the safety and security of this event and its participants,” he said.

Rioters seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election descended on Capitol Hill on Jan. 6, 2021. They

scaled walls, shattered windows, beat police and hunted down lawmakers

in the halls of Congress. About 140 police officers were injured that day. □



Insurrectionists loyal to President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

Most Americans don't trust AI-powered election information: AP-NORC/USAFACTS survey

By ALI SWENSON and

LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jim

Duggan uses ChatGPT almost daily to draft marketing emails for his carbon removal credit business in Huntsville, Alabama. But he'd never trust an artificial intelligence chatbot with any questions about the upcoming presidential election.

"I just don't think AI produces truth," the 68-year-old political conservative said in an interview. "Grammar and words, that's something that's concrete. Political thought, judgment, opinions aren't." Duggan is part of the majority of Americans who do not trust artificial intelligence-powered chatbots or search results to give them accurate answers, according to a survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and USAFACTS. About two-thirds of U.S. adults say they are not very or not at all confident that these tools provide reliable and factual information, the poll shows. The findings reveal that even as Americans have started using generative AI-fueled chatbots and search engines in their personal and work lives, most have remained skeptical of these rapidly advancing technologies. That's particularly true



A spool of stickers rests on a table at a polling station during Massachusetts state primary voting, Sept. 3, 2024, in Newton, Mass.

Associated Press

when it comes to information about high-stakes events such as elections.

Earlier this year, a gathering of election officials and AI researchers found that AI tools did poorly when asked relatively basic questions, such as where to find the nearest polling place. Last month, several secretaries of state warned that the AI chatbot developed for the social media platform X was spreading bogus election information, prompting X to tweak the tool so it would first direct users to a federal

government website for reliable information.

Large AI models that can generate text, images, videos or audio clips at the click of a button are poorly understood and minimally regulated. Their ability to predict the most plausible next word in a sentence based on vast pools of data allows them to provide sophisticated responses on almost any topic but it also makes them vulnerable to errors.

Americans are split on whether they think the use of AI will make it more dif-

ficult to find accurate information about the 2024 election. About 4 in 10 Americans say the use of AI will make it "much more difficult" or "somewhat more difficult" to find factual information, while another 4 in 10 aren't sure saying it won't make it easier or more challenging, according to the poll. A distinct minority, 16%, say AI will make it easier to find accurate information about the election.

Griffin Ryan, a 21-year-old college student at Tulane University in New Orleans,

said he doesn't know anyone on his campus who uses AI chatbots to find information about candidates or voting. He doesn't use them either, since he's noticed that it's possible to "basically just bully AI tools into giving you the answers that you want." The Democrat from Texas said he gets most of his news from mainstream outlets such as CNN, the BBC, NPR, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. When it comes to misinformation in the upcoming election, he's more worried that AI-generated deepfakes and AI-fueled bot accounts on social media will sway voter opinions.

"I've seen videos of people doing AI deepfakes of politicians and stuff, and these have all been obvious jokes," Ryan said. "But it does worry me when I see those that maybe someone's going to make something serious and actually disseminate it." A relatively small portion of Americans 8% think results produced by AI chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or Anthropic's Claude are always or often based on factual information, according to the poll. They have a similar level of trust in AI-assisted search engines such as Bing or Google, with 12% believing their results are always or often based on facts. □

2nd Circuit rejects Donald Trump's request to halt post conviction proceedings in hush money case



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks to reporters in the spin room after a presidential debate with Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected Donald Trump's request to halt post conviction proceedings in his hush money criminal case, leaving a key ruling and the former president's sentencing on track for after the November election.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan cited the postponement last week of Trump's sentencing from Sept. 18 to Nov. 26 in denying his motion for an emergency stay.

The sentencing delay, which Trump had sought, removed the urgency required for the appeals court to consider pausing proceedings.

Messages seeking comment were left for

Trump's lawyers and the Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted the case.

Trump appealed to the 2nd Circuit after a federal judge last week thwarted the Republican nominee's request to have the U.S. District Court in Manhattan seize control of the case from the state court where it was tried.

Trump's lawyers said they wanted the case moved to federal court so they could then seek to have the verdict and case dismissed on immunity grounds.

The trial judge, Juan M. Merchan, announced the delay last Friday and said he now plans to rule Nov. 12 on Trump's request to overturn the verdict and toss out the case because of the U.S. Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling. □

Dutch adopt U.S. war graves to harbor memories of the country's liberation 80 years ago

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

MARGRATEN, Netherlands

(AP) — In the rolling hills of the southern Netherlands, locals have vowed to never forget the American and other Allied soldiers who gave their lives in the fight to liberate towns and villages from the Nazi occupation in World War II.

Nowhere is the deep-rooted gratitude of the post-war generations more clear than in the 65.5 acres of manicured lawns and white marble headstones of the Netherlands American Cemetery on a hill just outside the village of Margraten.

The hallowed burial ground is hosting a concert Thursday to mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the liberation of the Netherlands.

Hundreds of people like Ton Hermes and Maria Kleijnen have chosen to "adopt" one of the 8,288 Americans buried there.

It's an act of gratitude and remembrance that started almost as soon as the war ended and endures to this day.

People who adopt a grave visit it regularly and leave flowers on the fallen sol-



Eighty years after the liberation of the south of the Netherlands, Scott Taylor, center, Ton Hermes and Maria Kleijnen stand next to the grave of Scott's grandfather Second Lt. Royce Taylor, a bombardier with the 527 Bomb Squadron, at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, southern Netherlands, on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

Associated Press

dier's birthday, the day they died, at Christmas, on Memorial Day or whenever else they see fit. Some reach out to families of the dead in the U.S., forming lasting transatlantic friendships.

Hermes and Kleijnen adopted 2nd Lt. Royce D. Taylor, a bombardier with the 527 Bomb Squadron, 379

heavy bomber group, who was killed at age 23 when his B-17 plane was shot down on his third mission over Germany a raid to Bremen on Dec. 20, 1943. Taylor's grandson, Scott Taylor, from Indianapolis, calls his grandfather his hero. He is also the inspiration behind Scott's decision to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

He flew F-15E Strike Eagle jets over Iraq and Kosovo. Taylor paid tribute to Maria and to Ton, who chairs the foundation responsible for the adoptions, and all the families who tend graves in the cemetery that is meticulously maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

"I'm very grateful. I can't

say it enough to Ton and Maria that I really am grateful for their efforts to be able to remember my grandfather and then also help other Dutch families to remember the others that are here in the cemetery," he told The Associated Press as a cool fall wind blew through the rows of headstones.

"I am so grateful at a personal level ... because I can't care for my grandfather like they can," he added, after they had placed a fresh bouquet of flowers in front of Taylor's grave.

He was visiting the cemetery a day ahead of the concert to mark the 80th anniversary of American forces from the 30th Infantry Division, known as Old Hickory, crossing from nearby Belgium into the village of Mesch in what is remembered as the start of the liberation of the Netherlands from four years of brutal Nazi occupation. While much of the south was quickly freed by Allied soldiers pushing eastwards into Germany, the far more densely populated west of the country, including major cities like Amsterdam and Rotterdam had to wait months for liberation. □

Buckingham Palace guard's distinctive bearskin caps under fire by animal rights group

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — An animal rights group trying to get real fur out of the bearskin caps worn by King's Guards at Buckingham Palace took aim Thursday at the cost of the ceremonial garb.

The price of the caps soared 30% in a year to more than 2,000 pounds (\$2,600) apiece for the hats made of black bear fur, the Ministry of Defense said in response to a freedom of information request by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

"Stop wasting taxpayer pounds on caps made

from slaughtered wildlife and switch to faux fur today," the group said in a statement.

A luxury fake fur maker has offered to supply the army with free faux bear fur for 10 years, PETA said.

The military said it was open to exploring alternatives if they pass muster in durability, water protection and appearance. But "no alternative has met all those criteria to date," a ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

The distinctive tall black hats, worn by guards in bright scarlet tunics, are seen by millions who watch the regular changing of

the guard ceremony at the palace.

They also appear at other royal events including the annual Trooping the Color ceremony honoring the monarch's birthday in June.

The cost of the caps rose from 1,560 pounds (\$2,035) each in 2022 to 2,040 pounds (\$2,660) in 2023, the ministry said. More than 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) was spent on them in the past decade.

The price went up because of a contract change for fur that comes from bears killed in licensed hunts in Canada, the military said. Each cap requires one

bear pelt, PETA said.

PETA, which has been pushing

for more than two decades to scrap the fur hats, said each cap requires one bear pelt. □



Soldiers from the Irish Guards march along the Mall as they take part in the Trooping the Color ceremony, in London, Saturday, June 15, 2024.

Associated Press

U.S. sanctions 16 allies of Venezuela's president over accusations of obstructing the election

By REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. government on Thursday responded to Venezuela's disputed July presidential election by imposing sanctions against 16 allies of President Nicolás Maduro, accusing them of obstructing the vote and carrying out human rights abuses.

Those targeted by the Treasury Department include the head of the country's high court, leaders of state security forces and prosecutors. The move came days after the departure into exile of Edmundo González Urrutia, the former diplomat who represented the main opposition parties and claimed to have won the July 28 presidential election by a wide margin. Venezuela's electoral authorities declared Maduro the victor hours after polls closed, but unlike previous presidential elections, they never released detailed vote tallies to back up their claim arguing that the National Electoral Council's website was hacked. To the surprise of supporters and opponents, González and opposition leader María Corina Machado shortly



Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González waves to supporters during a political event at a square in the Hatillo municipality of Caracas, Venezuela, June 19, 2024.

Associated Press

afterward announced not only that their campaign had obtained vote tallies from over two-thirds of the electronic voting machines used in the election but also that they had published them online to show the world that Maduro had lost. Global condemnation over the lack of transparency prompted Maduro to ask Venezuela's high court, stacked with ruling party loyalists, to audit the results.

The court reaffirmed his victory.

Experts from the United Nations and the Carter Center, which observed the election at the invitation of Maduro's government, determined the results announced by electoral authorities lacked credibility. The U.N. experts stopped short of validating the opposition's claim to victory but said the faction's voting records published on

line appear to exhibit all of the original security features.

"Rather than respecting the will of the Venezuelan people as expressed at the ballot box, Maduro and his representatives have falsely claimed victory while repressing and intimidating the democratic opposition in an illegitimate attempt to cling to power by force," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. □

The State Department said it is placing new visa restrictions on Maduro allies who are accused of impeding the vote and repressing Venezuelans. The department did not name those individuals.

The potential effect of the individual sanctions and visa restrictions announced Thursday is unclear. Previously punished Maduro loyalists still play key roles in Venezuela's government, including as vice president, attorney general and defense minister.

A senior Biden administration official told reporters that the U.S. expects the latest announcement to "prompt deeper reflection" among the Maduro allies about how far they will go to help him in his effort to stay in power. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the administration. The Treasury has penalized more than 140 current or former Venezuelan officials. The State Department has identified nearly 2,000 people as possibly facing visa restrictions over allegations of corruption, undermining democracy or violating Venezuelans' human rights. □

U.N. warns some 25 million Sudanese risk famine without more donations

By TRISHA THOMAS

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The World Food Program needs bet-

ter access to people at risk of starvation in Sudan and more money from the crisis-weary West to feed more



A World Food Programme (WFP) truck backs up to load food items from a recently landed UN helicopter, in Yida camp, South Sudan, Sept. 14, 2012.

Associated Press

than 25 million people facing acute hunger, the U.N. agency's director said Thursday.

"Sudan's nearly a forgotten crisis right now," WFP director Cindy McCain told The Associated Press.

"There are so many crises going on that people kind of just, you know, it's just too much and their eyes glaze over," she added.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to Darfur and other regions. Some 10 million have been internally displaced and the country

is engulfed in a humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands of people have died in fighting.

While WFP has designated points of entry to bring aid to the hungry, the onset of the rainy season means trucks have difficulty reaching the Zamzam camp, home to more than 400,000 displaced people, that was declared to have crossed the famine thresholds last February.

"It's taken our trucks almost two weeks to get in there," McCain explained. "Bridges are washed out. Roads are washed out. It's a really it's a combination of really tragic situations."

"We need to get in there at

scale," McCain said. "And we need to make sure that the world understands the need and what is at stake if we don't."

WFP has been coping with a lack of funding as donor fatigue set in after the pandemic. The organization is trying to compensate by developing new technologies for predicting weather and providing food in emergencies.

"We have to do more with less. We have to be more efficient, more effective. We have to predict the things that we have to predict, climate change effects and things are very necessary now," she said. □



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tug-boat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then re-located to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When you are planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

The Casino Aruba at Hilton to Host The Caribbean Poker Series 2024: A Premier Poker Event in Paradise

ARUBA- The Casino Aruba at Hilton is delighted to announce that it will be the official host of The Caribbean Poker Series, taking place from September 26 to October 6, 2024. This highly anticipated event will bring together poker enthusiasts from across the globe for 11 days of thrilling competition, highlighted by 16 Rings tournaments.

The Caribbean Poker Series offers an extraordinary blend of high-stakes poker, entertainment, and the chance to unwind in one of the world's most beautiful destinations. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Aruba's sun-kissed beaches and vibrant culture, players will experience an unparalleled poker tournament. Whether you're a seasoned pro or new to the game, this event offers something for everyone, with opportunities to win prestigious prizes and make unforgettable memories.

To further enhance the experience, The Casino Aruba at Hilton has teamed up with



several hotels and resorts in the Palm Beach area to offer exclusive room rates for players. Guests can look forward to luxurious accommodations, all within easy reach of the gaming action.

For more information on the event schedule, registration, or to inquire about players' room rates, please contact our dedicated travel specialist, Bridget Stein. Bridget is available via email at bridget.stein@tcaruba.com or by phone at +1 (561) 716-7074.

Join us at The Caribbean Poker Series 2024 for an extraordinary blend of compet-



itive poker, relaxation, and the unique charm of Aruba. Don't miss your chance to

be part of this one-of-a-kind event.

Stay updated by visiting www.caribbeanpokerseries.com. □

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: Moments & Memories Jewelry,
and El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas
As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's

a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if

you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority

over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



Aruba to me: Chicken Soup for our souls!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional

purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Jon Janco, from Fall River, Massachusetts.

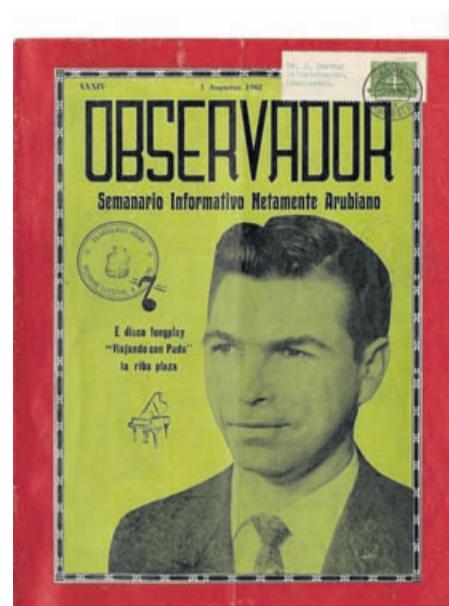
He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is like Chicken Soup for our souls." He also shared a picture with his daughter Madison Monty and his wife, Alisha Smith, which they took at Roger's Beach. Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with



a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world. One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was



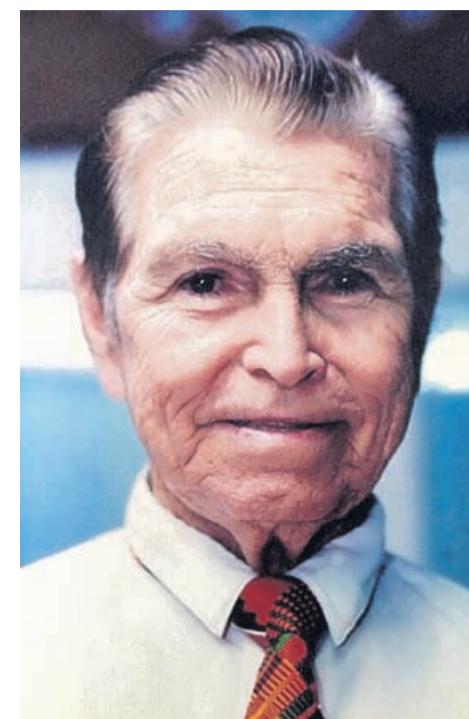
able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booij. In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamento on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the



Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



Natural Bridge before collapsing

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean,

this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge mea-

sured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.



Current state of the Natural Bridge



Baby Nautal Bridge

nir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".

The district of Savaneta: The capital before Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search

in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

What to do in Savaneta

The rustic charisma and relaxed atmosphere of this community beckons islanders looking for a casual retreat from their busy lives, as well as visitors looking for unfussy, authentic local charm. Relaxing days can be spent at Mangel Halto, a gem of a beach located just north of Savaneta, where a dense network of mangrove trees leads to an irresistibly inviting expanse of shallow, aquamarine water, made remarkably placid by the protective barrier reef further out.

Savaneta's proximity and easy access to the sea has made this area popular within the local fishing community. Visitors will enjoy mingling

with islanders at Zeerovers, a fisherman's wharf-cum-roadhouse promising a heady mix of local flavours. A counter near the entrance sells freshly caught fish to take away. Patrons can also have the fish prepared on the premises and then enjoy it on the waterside deck among the seasoned locals discussing the latest town news over a few ice-cold beers.

Savaneta in Aruba is home to the Roly Bislick Olympic Pool complex, the training grounds for Aruba's elite swimmers and synchronised swimmers and host to many international competitions. The Marine Barracks Savaneta is also based here, housing the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Netherlands Marine Corps, the Netherlands Coastguard and the Aruban Military.

Savaneta restaurants are known for their extremely fresh seafood and varied cuisine with a Caribbean twist.

When you ask a local about their favourite things to do in Savaneta, the chances are that visiting Mangel Halto Beach is one of them. This beach is like no other on the island. It is a great snorkelling spot adorned with beautiful mangroves, but what attracts everyone to this Savaneta gem is the laid back atmosphere!

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock and Aruba.com.



Alonso de Ojeda



Mangel Halto

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

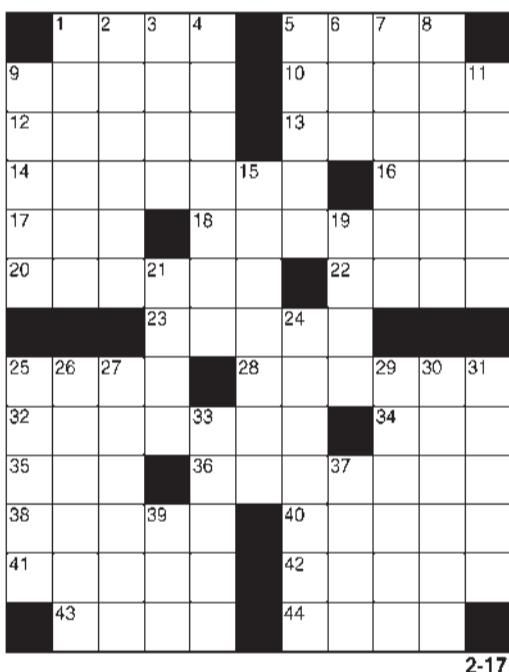
- 1 Flight cost 41 Puzo
- 5 Best Picture winner in 2013 42 Writer
- 9 Trivial
- 10 Sentence subjects 43 Tear
- 12 Painter
- 13 Racket
- 14 Contem- porary
- 16 Box office sales, in Variety
- 17 — Aviv
- 18 Filing concern
- 20 Clog
- 22 Bauxite and galena
- 23 Wrong
- 25 Play start
- 28 "Taken" star
- 32 Not in time
- 34 Stage signal
- 35 Angled pipe
- 36 Reason to get dressed up
- 38 Similar
- 40 — up (hid out)

DOWN

- 1 Act
- 2 "Measure for Measure" role
- 3 Wander
- 4 Book typo
- 5 Wing
- 6 Aussie hopper
- 7 Rock instrument
- 8 Like some training
- 9 Ham and lamb
- 11 Perennial battlers
- 15 Draw on
- 19 Token of love
- 21 Sandbox toy
- 24 Is furious
- 25 Top players
- 26 Shirt part
- 27 Popular toast
- 29 Justice Antonin
- 30 Beat in a hot dog contest
- 31 Calls for
- 33 In the lead
- 37 Distribute
- 39 Relatives



Yesterday's answer



A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

L M E X I I G A B E P I L M I X Z E R ' P I
Q E N B E K ? N M I Z S E N M
A N Y X W , S R N E X B Z E X I
N U A N I A Q E E G . — " N M I
J U D P I B E R A J D A . J U Y A I B "

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO US, FAMILY MEANS PUTTING YOUR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER AND BEING THERE. — BARBARA BUSH

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

		ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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One Tech Tip: Ever wanted to quit Elon Musk's X platform? Here's how you can do it

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Since Elon Musk acquired Twitter, renamed it X, fired much of its staff and made other big changes, a steady stream of celebrities, public figures, organizations and ordinary people have quit the social media platform.

Some blame Musk for turning a place that used to be fun into one that's chaotic and toxic, pointing to moves like allowing polarizing figures such as Donald Trump back in. Others are turned off by Musk's juvenile humor or by how he's increasingly barging into their feeds with his posts, often to amplify far-right tropes.

They're defecting to rival sites like BlueSky, Mastodon, Meta's Threads, and Reddit. Some even are gasp quitting social media altogether.

So if you've decided it's time to exit X, here's what you need to do:

The first step

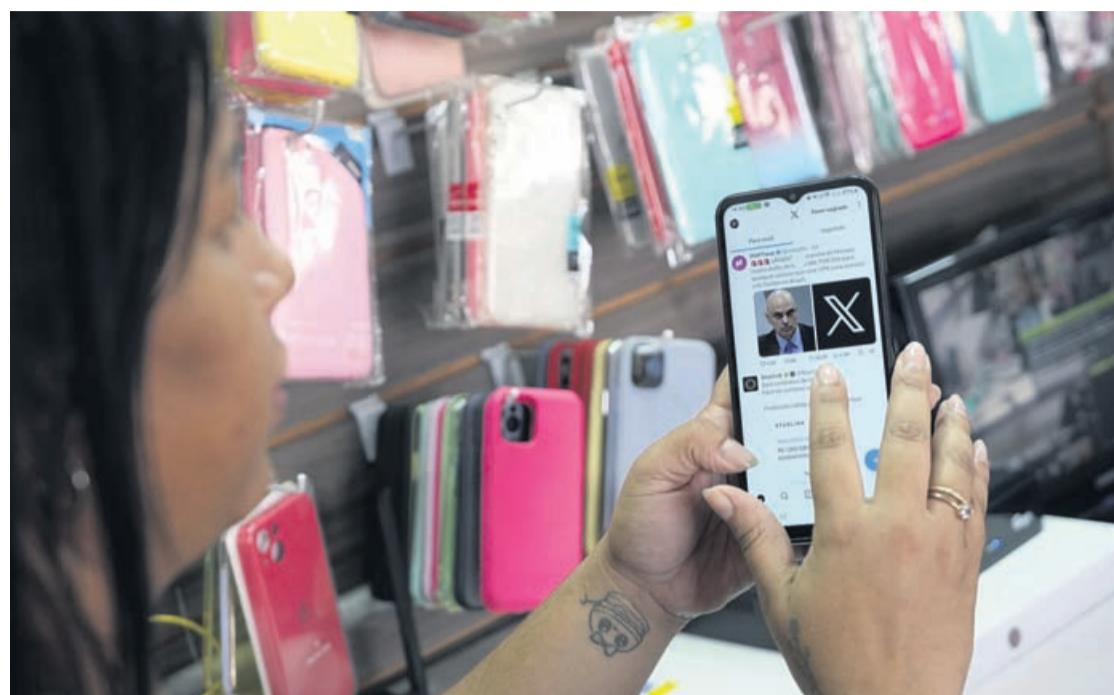
Begin by deactivating your account, which starts a 30-day countdown until your account is deleted permanently. Go to settings and privacy, then to the Account tab and click Deactivate your Account, enter your password and confirm you want to proceed.

Once you go ahead, your profile and username will be hidden from public view. If you change your mind, you can stop the process by logging in at any point during the 30-day period.

If you've signed up for a subscription, like a premium account, cancel that if you don't want to make another payment. Subscriptions are only automatically canceled when the account is deleted.

Third parties

If your account somehow gets reactivated even though you didn't want to, X says on its help pages that it might be because you've granted access to third-party apps. These are built by other software de-



Ana Claudia, a salesperson at a cell phone case store located inside the bus station, shows the last X post she received before the social media platform was blocked nationwide in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

velopers and can do things like read and make posts or access direct messages on your behalf.

To see which third-party apps you've given access to, head to the settings menu, then Security and Account Access. Click Apps and Sessions, and then Connected Apps. You can revoke access to individual apps by tapping or clicking on each one. If you suspect that a rogue app still has access to your account, try changing your password for X. Don't forget your data Before you leave for good,

you can download an archive of all your data from your time on Twitter and X. It could be useful if you want to look up a memorable post you wrote, refer back to direct messages you traded with other users, or find the accounts that you followed or were following you.

In the settings menu, you'll need to enter your password to request the data, which will come in a zip file. When I requested my archive, which amounted to 211 megabytes of data, it was available to download about 24 hours later.□

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How to reach us!

Downtown

Weststraat, Scheepstraat, Caya G.F. Betico Croes, Caya G.R., Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, High Rise Hotels, Weststraat, Bus terminal.



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DOCTOR ON DUTY

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Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Oduber : Tel. 582 1780
San Nicolas:
San Lucas: Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport 524 2424
American Airlines 582 2700
Avianca 588 0059
Jet Blue 588 2244
Surinam 582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

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James Earl Jones' Darth Vader voice lives on through AI. Voice actors see promise and peril in that

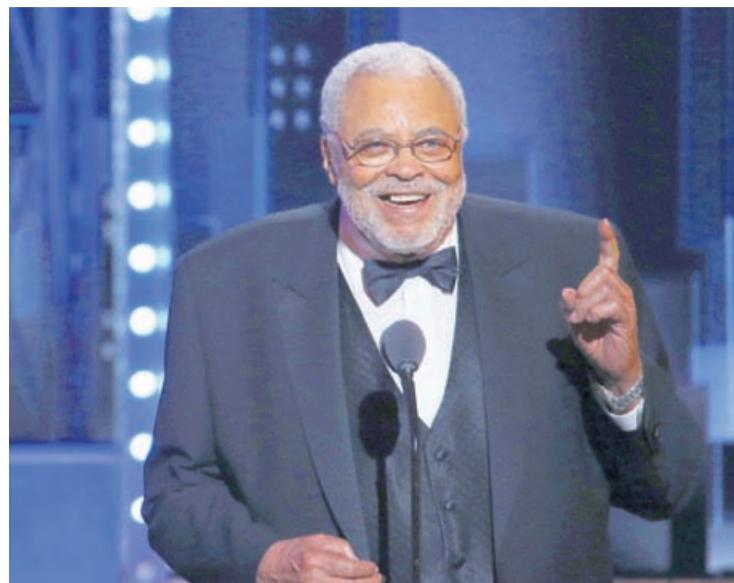
By SARAH PARVINI

AP Technology Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Over the course of an acting career that spanned more than six decades, James Earl Jones' voice became an indelible piece of his work as a performer.

On screen, Jones, who died Monday at 93, brought to life a reclusive writer coaxed back into the spotlight in "Field of Dreams" and a haughty king of a fictional land in "Coming To America." On stage, he won two Tony Awards for "The Great White Hope" and "Fences." His work as a voice actor the regal dignity of his portrayal of Mufasa in "The Lion King" and the menacing and deep timbre he lent to Darth Vader in "Star Wars" helped cement his place as a legendary actor among generations of fans.

But in the wake of his death, an aspect of Jones' career has come to the fore: consenting to the use of artificial intelligence to replicate his performance as Darth Vader after he stepped away from the role. Skywalker Sound and the Ukrainian company Respeecher used AI to recreate Jones' villain for the 2022 show "Obi-Wan Kenobi" on Disney+. Mark Hamill's voice was also "de-aged" using Respeecher



James Earl Jones accepts the special Tony award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre at the 71st annual Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, 2017, in New York.

Associated Press

for his appearance as Luke Skywalker in "The Mandalorian." Voice actors say they fear AI could reduce or eliminate job opportunities because the technology could be used to replicate one performance into a number of other movements without their consent a concern that led video game performers with the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists to go on strike in late July.

To some, Jones' decision to allow AI to replicate his voice raises questions about voice acting as an art, but also potentially helps lay the ground work for transparent AI agreements that

fairly compensate an actor for their performance with consent. Zeke Alton, a voice actor and member of SAG-AFTRA's interactive media agreement negotiating committee, said it's "amazing" that Jones was involved in the process of replicating his voice. "If the game companies, the movie companies, gave the consent, compensation transparency to every actor that they gave James Earl Jones, we wouldn't be on strike," Alton said. "It proves that they can do it. They just don't want to for people that they feel don't have the leverage to bargain for themselves."

Hollywood's video game performers announced a work stoppage their second in a decade after more than 18 months of negotiations over a new interactive media agreement with game industry giants broke down over artificial intelligence protections. Members of the union have said they are not anti-AI. The performers are worried, however, the technology could provide studios with a means to displace them. Concerns about how movie studios will use AI helped fuel last year's film and television strikes by the union, which lasted four months.

Jones, who overcame a childhood stutter, said in previous interviews that he was "happy to be able to talk at all, because there was time when I couldn't." His goal, he said, was for his voice to be clear. Speaking with The Associated Press in 1994, he said that he tried to make Darth Vader "more human and more interesting." But George Lucas, the filmmaker who created "Star Wars," advised him to "go back to a very narrow band of expression" because the mechanical parts of the villain's body would make it difficult for him to sound more human. Neither Skywalker Sound nor Respeecher responded to a request for comment.

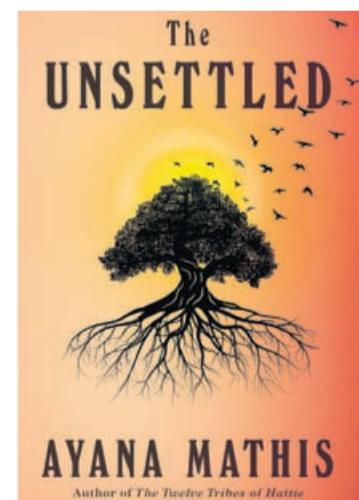
But a sound editor with Skywalker Sound told Vanity Fair that Jones signed off on the use of archival recordings to keep Darth Vader alive and that he guided Darth Vader's performance for the Disney+ show as "a benevolent godfather." Voice actor Brock Powell said that the ability to use an actor like Jones' voice in perpetuity could eliminate the need for actors who specialize in matching voices. That type of work provides steady jobs for many performers, they said, who can recreate a famous voice for video games, animated series and other types of media.

"To quote 'Jurassic Park,' the scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to ask if we should," Powell said.

That type of AI use could also reduce "ingenuity" in acting, they said, because new actors might not have the chance to come in and reinvigorate a role.

Crispin Freeman, an actor who has done voice matching work replicating Orlando Bloom's voice in "Pirates of the Caribbean," said that the technology may take away voice matching roles, but doesn't harm "the ability of future artists to blaze their own trails" in new roles. □

\$10,000 literary award named for the late author Gabe Hudson goes to Ayana Mathis' 'The Unsettled'



This cover image released by Knopf shows "The Unsettled" by Ayana Mathis.

Associated Press

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A \$10,000 literary award named for the late author-editor-podcaster Gabe Hudson has been established by the publisher McSweeney's, where Hudson once worked.

The inaugural winner, Ayana Mathis' "The Unsettled," was announced Thursday, on what would have been Hudson's 53rd birthday. He died last year from complications due to undiagnosed diabetes. Hudson published two books, the story collection "Dear Mr. President" and the novel "Gork the Teenage Dragon," and was widely admired for his support of

other writers.

"It is the privilege of a lifetime to become part of Gabe's legacy of generosity, literary community, and artistic excellence as the inaugural recipient of this distinguished award," Mathis said in a statement.

The prize, which honors the best second work of fiction of the previous year, was decided upon by a four-judge panel led by novelist Akhil Sharma. Hudson's mother, Sanchia Semere, provided funding for the award.

"Gabe, my son, wanted to be a writer from a young age. He was a voracious reader, and was friends with many in the writing community, as

well as a friend to many who sought his advice on writing," Semere said in a statement. "I recall Gabe submitting to McSweeney's early on, and the thrill he experienced when McSweeney's published a submission. I can think of no better way for Gabe's name to live on than to establish the Gabe Hudson Prize at McSweeney's to award writers whose second books exemplify the notions of humor, satire and the generosity of spirit for which Gabe was known."

Runners-up for the Hudson prize were Justin Torres' "Blackouts," Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's "Chain Gang All-Stars" and Hilary Leichter's "Terrace Story." □



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Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his ball on the eighth hole during the second round of the Tour Championship golf tournament, Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

McIlroy says PGA-LIV exhibition match offers a glimpse of possibilities

By DOUG FERGUSON
 AP Golf Writer

Rory McIlroy doesn't view the made-for-TV match between stars from the PGA Tour and LIV Golf as a message, more like a glimpse of the possibilities of what can happen, and what has been missing in golf since the great divide.

McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler are playing against Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau in December in Las Vegas. The only times they have competed in the same field this year were in the four majors. McIlroy, once a fierce opponent of Saudi-funded LIV Golf, has been bullish about finding a solution to bring the top players together more often. He has been on the PGA Tour board for a year, resigned and now is part of a negotiating committee.

"It's more we wanted to do something that, I guess, all golf fans could get excited about," McIlroy said Wednesday ahead of the Irish Open. "It's a way to show golf fans in the world that this is what could happen or these are the possibilities going forward. I've been saying this for a long time. I think golf and golf fans (should) get to see us together more than four times a year."

"I think we all thought it was a good idea and something that hopefully is a sign of things to come in the future."

A flight-tracking website reported that pri-

vate planes of the PGA Tour and Aramco, formally known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., were in the New York area, and ESPN reported more meetings between the PGA Tour and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia. Tiger Woods also was in New York, first for a charity event.

"I don't know much about the talks that are going on. I know that there is, but that's not something that I'm a part of," McIlroy said. "I think we are all in the game of golf trying to look for a solution to all this and try to move forward."

The PGA Tour starts the fall portion of its schedule, while LIV Golf wraps up its regular season at a public course in the Chicago suburbs. Jon Rahm, who signed with LIV in December, has a slight lead in the bid for the individual title and an \$18 million bonus.

Still unclear is Rahm's status with the Ryder Cup. He is required to play four European tour events to maintain his membership the Olympics count as one and Rahm says he has entered the Spanish Open next week.

But he is required to pay fines for playing LIV events against European tour events.

"Still talking to the DP World Tour. I intend to play in Spain," Rahm said Wednesday ahead of LIV Golf Chicago. "We entered a long time ago." □

Aces star A'ja Wilson breaks WNBA single season scoring record as Aces beat Fever

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A'ja Wilson broke the WNBA single season scoring record just before the first half of the Las Vegas Aces' game against the Indiana Fever on Wednesday night.

Wilson hit a jumper from the free throw line with 26.4 seconds left in the second quarter to surpass the previous mark of 939 points set by Jewell Loyd in 2023. The Aces' two-time league MVP came into the game averaging 27.3 points and 11.9 rebounds.

She finished the game with 27 points and 12 rebounds as Las Vegas won 86-75. Wilson credited her teammates for helping her break the record.

"I don't want to sound cliché when I say this but, I don't get any of that without every single teammate along the way. I'm so grateful to be able to play with selfless women," she said. "My teammates are the heartbeat. They keep me going. I don't get any points without them passing me the basketball."

"So the points are great. They're always going to be there. I'm never going to stop shooting, but the group that we have in this locker room is something that I'm truly so happy to be around."

Wilson needed just 35 games to top last year's record by Loyd, who did it in 38 games. Wilson's previous high was 912 points, set in 40 games last season.

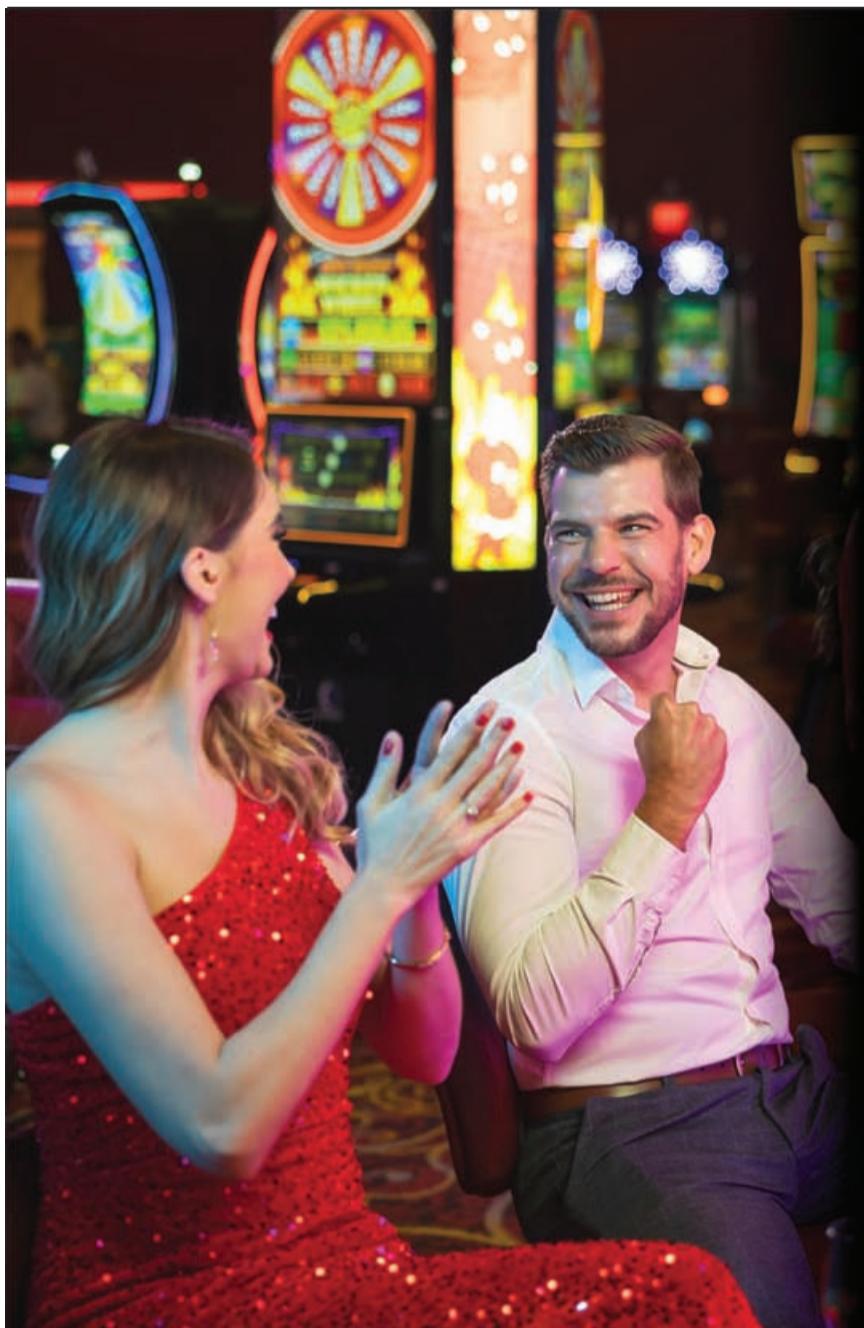
She now has 956 points this season and could potentially be the first player in league history to reach 1,000 in a year.

She missed the team's previous game in New York on Sunday as she was recovering from an ankle injury she suffered against Connecticut last Friday night. □



Las Vegas Aces' A'ja Wilson shoots over Indiana Fever's Aliyah Boston (7) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press



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The NFLPA would like to see more consistency when it comes to playing surfaces at home and abroad

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The NFL Players Association would like to have more consistency in what kind of turf its members play on, be it at home or overseas.

NFLPA executive director Lloyd Howell Jr. said Wednesday that moving forward it plans to be "assertive" when it comes to having input on field conditions, particularly as the NFL's international calendar expands. The Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers spent a fair amount of their opener in Sao Paulo, Brazil, last Friday struggling to find their footing inside NeoQuimica Arena, which normally serves as the home for a soccer team in Brazil's top league. Eagles running back Saquon Barkley slipped while trying to take a handoff on Philadelphia's first series,

and things didn't get much better from there for either team even after players switched to cleats that pro-

vided better traction. Howell said the NFLPA and the league worked together to get the field in shape but

added, "different country, different types of grass, different climate. You saw what you saw."

Howell thinks the NFLPA and the NFL need to be "more definitive" about what it needs to create a safe playing surface before it begins talks with owners of prospective international venues.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has been public about the hope of the league increasing the number of international contests it plays to as many as 16 in a season.

"If you're dealing with FIFA (international soccer's governing body), there's really not much of a negotiation when it comes to the surface that a soccer player is going to play on," he said. "I think as our game expands, we'll be equally assertive about 'These are the requirements in order to have our game played overseas.'" The NFLPA has similar concerns about games played domestically. □



Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley (26) scores past Green Bay Packers linebacker Isaiah McDuffie (58) during the first half of an NFL football game, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at the Neo Quimica Arena in Sao Paulo.

Associated Press